

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 34 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected claims 1-34. Applicants note that there are only 32 claims in the application as filed, and the Examiner has only provided descriptive rejections based on claims 1-32. Therefore, applicants will address only the rejection of claims 1-32.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §102

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-32 [34] under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,606 to Johnson ("Johnson").

The Present Invention

The present invention provides a method for displaying information in a display area including the steps of associating each of a plurality of sets of information with a locale designation and displaying the information in accordance with properties of the associated locale designations. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention further includes the step of sorting the plurality of sets of information in accordance with properties of the associated locale designations.

This invention deals with problems associated with the display of information in multiple languages in a computer system, and in particular, such display in a Graphical User Interface. Although not limited to such an application, the present invention find particular utility in translation programs where it is commonplace for multiple-language displays to be rendered fo the user. In prior art systems, the display of the multiple-language information is limited to a display based on the selection of a single locale, typically the locale in which

the program is being used. For example, if a translation program for translating Spanish to French is used in the United States (a predominately English-speaking locale), then if the computer on which the translation program resides is set for use in a locale identified as the United States, U.S. protocols for such things as alphabetization are based on English language protocols and English language characters. As an example, the Spanish language contains the character “á.” According to a USA locale designation this would be treated as a special character which would come somewhere after “z” in an alphabetically sorted order. In a Spanish locale designation sorted order, however, “á” would be located between “a” and “b.” Accordingly, Spanish words which begin with “á” would not be located where an operator would expect to find them if sorted according to a USA locale designation.

The present invention overcomes this problem by allowing multiple locales to be selected for information being displayed in a single display area (e.g., a GUI), with information associated with a first locale being displayable in accordance with properties of the first locale while information associated with a second locale being simultaneously displayable in accordance with properties of the second locale.

U.S. Patent No. 6,122,606 to Johnson

U.S. Patent No. 6,122,606 to Johnson (“Johnson”) teaches a system and method for enhancing human communications. Johnson is a translation program that uses translation rules to correlate a first language with a second language, and then communicate a communication, initially formulated in the first language, in the second language.

The Cited Prior Art Does Not Anticipate the Claimed Invention

The MPEP and case law provide the following definition of anticipation for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §102:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP §2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Company of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)

The Examiner Has Not Established a *prima facie* Case of Anticipation

As noted above, the present claimed invention is not directed to a translation program *per se*, but instead, is directed to solving a problem associated with the display of multiple languages and/or multiple character sets on a single display area. Rather than being concerned about how to display of multiple characters sets and/or multiple languages, the present invention is concerned with the ability to set multiple **locales** so that the display characteristics associated with more than one locale can be used to display different information sets. Each of the independent claims herein recite this feature (e.g., Claim 1: “A method for displaying information in a display area comprising the steps of: associating a first set of information with a **first locale designation**; associating a second set of information with a **second locale designation**; displaying data from said first set of information in accordance with properties of **said first locale designation**; and displaying data from said second set of information in accordance with properties of **said second locale designation**, said data from said first and second set of information displayed simultaneously on the display area.”).

Johnson contains no teaching nor suggestion of simultaneous display of information based on designating certain portions of the information for display according to properties of a first locale and designating other portions of the information for display according to

properties of a second locale. It appears that the Examiner is treating a “language” and a “locale” as being synonymous. In fact, they are not synonymous. The language is what is ultimately seen on the screen, but **how** it is displayed is controlled by the locale setting. The locale includes meta-information such as the character set for display, the sort order associated with that character set, the search order, the time display order, and other such properties associated with the language of the display. Many languages can be displayed using the same locale setting, as is done in the prior art. However, by limiting the display to a single locale, subtle differences associated with the manner in which certain characters are displayed, sorted, etc. (such as the Spanish “á” character discussed above) will limit the ability of users of the system to make the best use of the displayed text.

With the present invention, text in one language can be displayed and sorted in one manner (based on the properties of a first locale) and text in another language can be displayed and sorted in a different manner (based on the properties of a second locale). This cannot be accomplished by Johnson, and nothing in Johnson teaches or suggests this claimed feature.

In fact, Johnson expressly teaches away from this capability. Referring to Col. 12, lines 49 - 51, Johnson states that “[t]ranslation members in dictionary mode translation rules 602 cannot be in sorted order for all languages at the same time.” By contrast, the present invention allows precisely that, that is, a column of French-language characters can be sorted according to properties associated with a French locale, and simultaneously, a column of information in Spanish-language characters can be sorted according to properties associated with a Spanish locale.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims, and all claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Johnson and are in condition for allowance.

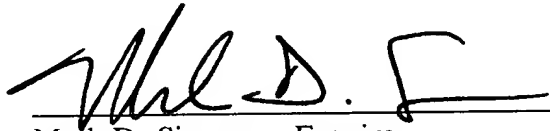
Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted

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Date


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